

REMARKS

Overview

The current final Office Action dated April 22, 2010 indicates the following: claims 11-38 and 59-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “A Social Exchange Architecture for Distributed Web Communities” by A. Tiwana et al. (hereinafter Tiwana) in view of Williams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,952,678); claims 71-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tiwana and Williams in further view of “Recommender Systems: A GroupLens Perspective” by J. Konstan; and claims 49-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tiwana in view of “Memory-Based Weighted-Majority Prediction” by J. Delgado et al. (hereinafter Delgado).

Applicants hereby amend claims 49-57 in order to clarify the subject matter of their invention, and further hereby cancel claim 58. Thus, claims 11-38, 49-57 and 59-72 are pending.

Applicants would also like to thank Examiner Sterrett for his consideration during the telephone interview with Applicants’ representative on April 2, 2010, regarding the improper finality of the prior final Office Action dated February 19, 2010. In response to the interview, the Examiner issued the current final Office Action dated April 22, 2010 in replacement of the prior final Office Action.

Applicants note that they intend to appeal the current final Office Action, and have amended the claims to be in better condition for appeal, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116(b)(2). The amendments do not affect the substantive subject matter of the pending claims, and thus do not necessitate a new search. In particular, claims 49-57 have each been amended to recite that the computer-readable medium is a “non-transitory” computer-readable medium.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered for the purposes of appeal, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116(b)(2). The rejections of the pending claims on the merits will be addressed by Applicants in the Appeal Brief filed for the upcoming appeal.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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